



WINNIE

Winnie was first detected by satellite on 5 September as a weak tropical disturbance approximately 300 nm northwest of Wake Island. At this time Typhoon Tess was approximately 900 nm to the northwest of Winnie with a surface trough extending southeastward to Wake Island. The combination of surface troughing and a favorable upper air pattern allowed this disturbance to develop. The first warning was issued early on the morning of the 9th based on satellite data.

From her initial detection as a disturbance, Winnie moved slowly north-northeastward, attaining minimal tropical storm intensity at 2100Z on the 8th. The storm was now 400 nm north-northwest of Wake Island and posed no significant threat to any inhabited islands. However, as reported by the Pacific Stars and Stripes, Winnie did represent a threat to shipping and in fact sank a 44 ft sailboat, THE FLATBUSH MAN, on a pleasure cruise from Marcus Island to Hawaii. The four people aboard were adrift for 13 days in a rubber raft until 21 September when a

Russian whaling vessel picked them up.

From the time of initial tropical storm strength until 1200Z on the 11th, Winnie was steered on a northerly course by the combination of a sharp mid-tropospheric trough to the west and a blocking ridge to the east. A 200 mb trough extending to the west of Winnie inhibited development past minimal typhoon strength with typhoon force winds persisting only for a 24 hr period from 1800Z on the 9th to 1800Z on the 10th (Fig. 4-12). A Japanese ship (JEEU), located approximately 35 nm north of Winnie, reported sustained winds of 65 kt at 1800Z on the 9th.

Approaching a frontal system near 35N, Winnie came under stronger steering flow, accelerated to near 20 kt, and began to weaken. A short wave trough moving through the long wave ridge diminished its amplitude and Winnie assumed a more northeasterly track while continuing to accelerate. By 0000Z on the 12th, Winnie was absorbed into the frontal system and became an extratropical system with maximum winds of 30 kt.



FIGURE 4-12. Typhoon Winnie 650 nm north-northwest of Wake Island, 9 September 1975, 2151Z. (DMSP imagery)